

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A *Bacillus* strain has a chromosome with the following modifications: a mutation of a spoIIIIE gene which blocks transfer of the prespore chromosome; a mutation which prevents loss of SpoOJ function from blocking sporulation; a first reporter gene dependent on σ^F factor and placed at a location where impaired SpoOJ function leads to increased trapping in the prespore; and a second reporter gene having a promoter which is dependent on σ^F factor and where impaired SpoOJ function leads to reduced trapping in the prespore. The strain is useful in a method of screening for putative antibiotics.